

WAO ANNUAL REPORT 2004

Collated and edited by Ivy Josiah, Executive Director on behalf of the Hon. Secretary, WAO Executive Committee 2003/2005

Reports written by:

Annie Varghese

Thillai Mohanadas

Jaclyn Kee

Jessie Ang

Tashia Peterson

Shoba Aiyar

Saralah Devi

Mary Selina

Daljeen Kaur

Chong See Mun

1.0 THE FOLLOWING WERE ELECTED FOR A 2 YEAR TERM (2003- 2005) AT THE 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2003 AT 10.00 AM, at BILIK ANGGERIK, APDC, KUALA LUMPUR

President:	Meera Samanther
Vice - President:	Shanthi Dairiam
Secretary:	Mok Chuang Lian
Assistant Secretary:	Sharon Hariharan
Treasurer:	Yeow Ai Lin
Assistant Treasurer:	Carol Chin
Committee members:	Vivienne Lee Iskandar, Sharon Kaur Noelle Lim (<i>resigned 18 April '04</i>) Rozana Isa (<i>co-opted w.e.f. May '04</i>)
Co opted member:	Musfiza Mustapa (<i>wef May '03</i>)

The EXCO conducted 7 committee meetings in 2004.

1.1 WAO COMMITTEES, GROUPS, COALITIONS 2004

Staff Committee:	Meera Samanther Mok Chuang Lian Yeow Ai Lin Ivy Josiah
CEDAW Core Committee:	Sharon Kaur Ivy Josiah Tashia Peterson Shanthi Dairiam (IWRAW Asia Pacific Representatives from Sisters In Islam & Women's Centre for Change Penang

Fundraising Group:

Datin Alissa Fitri

Vivienne Lee Iskandar

Yeow Ai Lin

Meera Samanther

Ivy Josiah

Annie Varghese

Anak Angkat Coordinator:

Shoba Aiyar

Volunteer Coordinator:

Musfiza Mustapa

Noelle Lim

Annie Varghese

Public Education:

Ivy Josiah

Nazlina Abd. Ghani

Wathshlah G. Naidu

Shoba Aiyar

Viji Ramanathan

Mary Selina

Website Design & Content:

Jaclyn Kee

NCWO Representatives:

Shanthi Dairiam

Shoba Aiyar

Joint Action Group against

Violence Against Women:

Ivy Josiah

Meera Samanther

Malaysian Coalition

Viji Ramanathan

for the Prevention

Jessie Ang

of Child Sexual Abuse

Chong See Mun

(MCPCSA) Representatives:

Malaysian Aid Council

Chiam Jet Yin

Representative:

Article 11:

Ivy Josiah

Shoba Aiyar

Meera Samanther

2. TRUSTEES

The trustees are as follows:

Toh Puan Datin Dr. Aishah Ong

Rashidah Abdullah

Noor Farida Ariffin

Puan Sri Chong Eu Ngoh

3. MEMBERSHIP

In 2004 WAO had 98 listed members and approximately 50 active volunteers.

4. STAFF

Refuge

Shoba Aiyar	Social Worker
Normah Mohd. Nor	Night Social Worker
Jessie Ang	Social Worker
Nazlina Abd. Ghani	Social Worker
Chong See Mun	Social Worker
Saralah Devi Mahendran	Social Worker

Child Care Centre (CCC)

Vijayaledchumy Ramanathan	Senior Social worker (<i>retired 15 Oct. '04</i>)
Mary Selina Santhanasamy	Social Worker
Daljeen Kaur	Child Social Worker (<i>w.e.f. 1 Oct. '04</i>)
Mary Fatima Vasupillay	Night Supervisor (<i>resigned 30 June '04</i>)
Engammah Anumiah (Vijaya)	Child Minder
Juartini Paman	Child Minder (<i>w.e.f. 1 Aug. '04</i>)
Amuthavally	Child Minder (w.e.f. 1Feb. '04)

Executive Staff

Ivy N. Josiah	Executive Director
Annie Varghese	Administrator
Sharmini Kanesamoorthy	Accounts & Finance Executive
Aneesa Alphonsus '04)	Programme & Projects Coordinator (<i>resigned 15 May</i>

Administrative staff

Kavitha Chandran	Administrative Assistant (<i>resigned 30 June '04</i>)
Thillai Mohandas	Administrative Assistant (<i>w.e.f. 1 June '04</i>)
Puspawati Ismail	Accounts cum Admin Assistant (<i>w.e.f. 1 Oct. '04</i>)

Project Contract Staff

Tashia Peterson	Researcher & Writer (<i>w.e.f. May – July 2004</i>)
Wathshlah G. Naidu	Law Reform Officer (<i>resigned 8 Feb. '04</i>)

6.0 WAO SERVICES

Refuge	132 women and 85 children
Face to Face Counselling	75 women
Telephone Counselling	1500 calls
Child Care Centre	35 children

6.1 Refuge Services

This year WAO provided shelter to 132 women and 85 children. Out of the 132 women 70 women sought shelter because of domestic violence.

The number of domestic violence cases has remained the same over the past several years, and the women who sought shelter stayed from 1 week up to 3 months. Over the years we noticed the women were more informed, resourceful and capable of taking care of themselves. However, even then, they still faced domestic violence in their lives. The underlying factor is the unequal power relationship in marriages. Many women do not want to take any action against their husbands but simply want the abuse to stop. 1[1]

The nature of domestic violence cases that come to WAO has remained the same. We have continued to help women through phone counselling and face to face counselling by giving them support emotionally and helping them access services provided by various agencies such as the police.

1[1] More information on domestic violence cases will be available in the 2004 statistics

Besides accompanying residents from the shelter to the various agencies, there are times when the social workers accompany those who come for face to face counselling to the courts or the police station. Some of the women have the means to stay on their own and do not require the shelter services but still need support when they go to the police stations and courts.

The Nirmala Bonat case that made the headlines about an employer who had cruelly and intentionally abused her domestic helper, changed the working relationship with agencies especially the Immigration Department. Initially the social workers had frequently requested for meetings with the immigration authorities to discuss payment for special passes, but these requests were not entertained. After the Nirmala Bonat case was highlighted, the foreign domestic workers who were seeking shelter with us wanted to make their story known to all. WAO called for a press conference to highlight their plight about long drawn police investigations, court hearings, unpaid salaries and problems with the immigration.

The outcome of the press conference, was a meeting with Dato' Aseh Che Mat, Secretary General, Ministry of Home Affairs and his officials from the Immigration Department. We were granted the advantage of renewing special passes for the foreign domestic workers without incurring any payment. Another outcome from this meeting was, WAO can now deal directly with the migrant workers department rather than the enforcement department so that special passes could be expedited.

There were two (2) arrest cases, which we dealt with in 2004. In the first case, the employer accused the foreign domestic worker of stealing a pair of earrings. Consequently, the domestic worker was held in remand for 4 days for investigations. Earlier, she had also made a police report against her employer for abuse and the police were already investigating her case for 3 months when the remand order against her was made.

WAO tried to negotiate with the police to release the domestic worker, as she was not a flight risk and would cooperate with the police in their investigations. The police refused to release her and subsequently both the President of WAO and Ravi Nekoo, a lawyer representing the domestic worker, met with the OCPD to register our concern and that this remand was highly unnecessary. This case was also submitted to the Royal Commission on the Police as an example of abuse of power by the Police.

In the second case, the foreign domestic worker was arrested based on a report made by her employer that she was an "illegal" when she was at the labour office for her labour court hearing and she was held in the lock up for one night for investigations. Before she was brought to the court for a remand order, both the Executive Director, a social worker and Parames, lawyer for the domestic worker met with the OCPD where we stressed that she was not a flight risk as she would be available for statements if the police were to pursue the employer's report against her. Although we were told that this was not possible and that we could only meet with her, on our way back from the meeting we were informed that she would be released on that very day. No explanation was given as to why the Police changed their minds.

These 2 incidents have alerted us to the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers and the arbitrary powers of the police. WAO will continue to document these cases and submit them to authorities, specifically monitoring the powers of the police and its potential abuse.

Migrant domestic workers stay longer in the shelter because of the time taken by the police for investigations and court procedures. As they are not allowed to work while waiting for their cases, they become very frustrated and after some time they start to lose interest in pursuing their cases.

6.1.1 Women's and Children's Programmes

The women's and children's programme went on regularly ranging from skills building to empowerment classes conducted by the social workers and volunteers. Regular house meetings were held with the residents to share their grievances and complaints. Ongoing current issues were usually discussed during the house meetings with the residents for them to air their view points i.e. the Nirmala Bonat case where a foreign domestic worker was abused by her employer. Some of the topics discussed during these meetings were the procedures of obtaining salary, travelling without a passport, steps to take if you are raped, court procedures, how to deal with crisis situations and many more. Most of these topics were requested by the residents.

Besides the social workers and volunteers who facilitate these discussions, outside expertise were regularly invited such as the Malaysian's Aid Council and FFPAM to give talks on HIV/AIDS and family planning. Following this, social workers also held regular sessions with the residents to discuss about the different kinds of health issues. Volunteers conducted regular computer and English classes for the residents to improve their skills. This gave the residents more confidence as they left WAO feeling more empowered and confident of themselves, which in turn enabled them to find better jobs. Volunteers also conducted regular yoga, self-defense, cooking, drama and henna painting sessions in the refuge for the residents.

The residents and their children were taken out by the social workers several times for picnics. Games and fun activities were organized at the shelter followed by barbecues that were held at the "wakaf" which was entirely built by the residents. The residents were also taken out to dinner at the Palace of Golden Horses for the moon cake festival. Melia Hotel had also invited our residents to join them in the Mother's Day celebrations. There was also a cheque presentation ceremony during the dinner and WAO was one of the beneficiaries. During the ceremony, Melia Hotel had also pledged to donate groceries to WAO for 1 year.

As for the children's programme, the usual activities were held every morning between 10am to 12pm by social workers and volunteers. Besides having lessons, they were also given fun things to do like artwork, drawing, games, and outside activities. The children were also taken out for movies and circus shows, which were sponsored.

The following are 2 special programmes conducted in 2004

6.1.2 Women's Programme – Refuge Painting

Armed with donated paints, the residents led by the interns Vee Kee and Danielle, began painting the living and bedrooms in different colours over a period of 3 days. The aim of this project was to promote group dynamics and the overall feeling of 'togetherness' by motivating each individual towards the same end goal, strengthening bonds among the residents and participate in beautifying our home.

Each participant was excited about their task, often forgoing their afternoon naps and taking no breaks to see to the end of the activity. While painting, everyone was laughing, singing, joking and even engaging in mock paint fights. Everyone displayed good team effort and were industrious in completing the job at hand. The Refuge is now looking brighter and everyone was proud of their joint effort.

6.1.3 Women's Programme - Quilt Making

Interns Vee Kee and Sharmala started this project with 5 of our migrant domestic worker residents. The quilt making took about a month. Here again the aim was to promote group

dynamics and each individual is tasked to work on their own quilt sections. Ultimately, they were working towards the same end goal of a complete quilt by joining all the sections together. Each quilt section was utilised as a form of self-expression, though limited by skill and materials.

Initially all the participants were very excited at the prospect of learning a new skill and they were very enthusiastic about their task. One of the residents, a 13 year old worked on the cloth squares in her room at night. However, as the interns came to the end of their internship period and there was no scheduled time set to make the quilt, the women lost interest in continuing the project.

From this project we learnt that without supervision or leadership, projects do not get off on their own among the residents. We are aiming to set aside a specific time schedule for activities and to assign permanent staff or volunteers to take on these kinds of projects.

6.2 Child Care Centre (CCC)

The Child Care Centre began operation in 1990 and by the end of 2004, a total of 107 mothers and 233 children have used the services of the Centre. In 2004, a total of 35 children stayed at the Centre with 26 new children entering the Centre.

Children in the Centre at the beginning of the year	9
Intake of children during the year	26
Children who left during the year	14
Children at the Center by the end of 2004	12

Breakdown of the 26 children who stayed in the Centre in 2004 is as follows:

2 – 6 years	12
7 – 12 years	10
13 years	4

Out of the 14 children that left during the year, only one went on to stay in another Children's Home. The rest of them went on to live with their mothers.

In addition to the usual homework and extra classes, there were two children who sat for the UPSR exams in 2004. There were also children who were unable to attend school due to school transfer issues and in one case, the child was an asylum seeker from Iraq and was not eligible to attend a government school. The staff and children had to work extra hard to make sure they did not lag behind in their studies.

There were numerous outings organized throughout the year. The children in kindergarten participated in their Kindergarten Concert, Sports Day and Graduation. School-going children attended three Achiever's Platform workshops. The children were given motivational talks, learnt ways to improve their memory and how to perform magic tricks. Three children also participated in the La Senza "Walk the Talk" event. The annual Youth Gathering, which included ex-CCC children, held in Genting Highlands was a huge success. Twenty-three children, including one current resident along with two staff, participated in the gathering.

Volunteers enjoyed taking the children out to places like the zoo and to the movies and for picnics and swimming activities. Some volunteers and their children also celebrated their birthdays with the children at the Centre. Deepavali and Hari Raya parties were also organized by volunteers. Donations in the form of stationary, shoes, and school uniforms were among the items received.

There were a couple of new additions to the staff. A third child minder was hired in 2004. She was a welcome addition to help ease things around the Centre. We had to also say goodbye to Viji Ramanathan, the Senior Child Social Worker who retired after being with WAO for 7 years. Her work with children and women throughout the 7 years with WAO is greatly appreciated and she will be deeply missed by all.

6.3 WAO 3rd CENTRE

At the AGM in 2004, the go ahead was given to open a 3rd centre that will serve the purposes of administration and advocacy. It will also act as a service centre. i.e. a Drop In Centre for women seeking counselling or advice.

In October 2004, WAO rented the a single storey bungalow at No 15, Jalan 14/ 28 with rental sponsorship from the Austrian German Swiss Association. During November and December 2004, the new centre was painted and furnished. WAO received donations of some furniture items.

The 3rd centre was used for the first time by social workers, for meeting clients or students and EXCO has also held 2 meetings there. The move of the administrative staff from the Refuge took place in December. We had a soft launch of the 3rd Centre by holding our annual end of year party there on 18 December.

7.0 ANAK ANGKAT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

This year there were 34 children under the Anak Angkat programme. There were 17 boys and 17 girls belonging to 19 mothers, who are survivors of domestic violence and ex-residents of WAO. Some of the mothers, who earn between RM300 and RM1000 per month, have one, two or three children on the scheme. Eligibility to this programme depended on the mother's monthly income.

The children's ages ranged between 7 and 17 years and were predominantly studying in primary school. From the results of the report cards, it showed that most of them were average students with only a handful excelling in their studies. Many mothers cited that lack of tuition or supervision in the home contributed to this. The mothers had just enough time to see to their food and housing and to buy them the essentials needed for home and school. They requested for motivational lessons and good role modelling to inspire their children to perform better. As a result of the above request, 10 of the children went to a 4-day computer camp at the National Youth Hostel in Cheras, organized by the Cyber Care Club and a 3-day motivational camp was organised by us for the teenagers in Genting Highlands in December. Around 20 teenagers attended this fun filled camp and came back enthusiastic for more of such camps. They expressed that they would even organize the camps themselves, if given the opportunity.

The social workers had the opportunity to meet the mothers on an individual basis when they came to collect the Anak Angkat money. They looked forward to these sessions as it gave them a chance to express their concerns, to examine their lives and to seek for advice on the up bringing of their children or about their family life situation. Many of them had so many frustrations that it clouded their thinking processes. With proper mapping of their situations, they were able to see what and where the obstacles are and managed to find solutions. This brought immense satisfaction to both clients and social workers.

Besides the emotional support for the mothers and motivation for the children, there were other forms of support given to the families i.e. by distributing to them provisions that we had received, inviting them to outings organised by hotels and social clubs and as well as watching movies and international shows. Some mothers were given assistance to apply for the low cost houses, reintroduced by the State Government and one mother was given financial assistance for down payment of the house utilities. There were others who needed letters to waiver costs of hospitalization for themselves or their children. The social workers and the families looked forward in meeting regularly and exchanging news, even if it was for a small request.

WAO would like to thank the following donors who have helped to keep this scheme alive and to help alleviate some of the financial burden of our single mothers. They are:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| * <i>Robert Gan</i> | * <i>Anna Maria (2)</i> | * <i>Indra Kulasegaran</i> |
| * <i>V. Kanesan (2)</i> | * <i>Dr. Tuen Kam Sin</i> | * <i>Puan Sri Dato' Jamilah</i> |
| * <i>Zeenath Begum</i> | * <i>Kathleen Chin</i> | * <i>Annapourni Chandrasekhar</i> |
| * <i>Juliana</i> | * <i>Jenny Chin</i> | * <i>Vivienne Lee</i> |
| * <i>V. Ravindran</i> | * <i>Tracy Wong</i> | * <i>Cho Foong Kuan</i> |
| * <i>Roslina Rahman</i> | * <i>Peter Lee</i> | * <i>Forestry Timber (9)</i> |
| * <i>Lolanda</i> | | |

() denotes number of sponsored children

8.0 LEGAL AID CENTRE / WAO CHAMBERING PLACEMENT

WAO has a long working relationship with the Bar Council in general and the Legal Aid Centre (LAC) specifically, in getting volunteer lawyers to handle our client's court cases. There have been around 8 criminal and family law practitioners who have lent their services voluntarily in this aspect.

This year we have gone a step forward in helping LAC expand its services to the NGO community by placing 2 of its chambering students at our centre. This initiative comprise the following:

- To have 2 pupils stationed at WAO refuge on a Monday or a Friday to assist the social workers in handling clients' needing legal information. They come once a week for 14 weeks. In addition, pupils are requested to accompany women to the courts, police stations, welfare departments, hospitals etc.;
- To assist in research and advocacy work on laws that discriminate against women and around issues of violence against women;
- To take part in ad hoc projects run by WAO from time to time, specifically the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, fund raising activities and public education talks and programmes.

The programme is implemented as follows;

1. Training: Pupils undergo training at the LAC and at WAO

The LAC training comprises basic knowledge in the areas of family, criminal, employment and syariah law and the means test to assess their eligibility. WAO provides training on the Domestic Violence Act and issues pertinent to WAO.

2. Review: Conducted by LAC and WAO project heads on students' chambering experience

WAO Coordinator (Shoba Aiyar) attends the monthly Management Panel meeting with other NGO partners at the LAC, to discuss the pupils' progress and to suggest improvements on the scheme.

The first batch of chambering students began in October 2003, and in 2004 we had 4 batches;

- *2nd Batch* - Dec - 5th Mar '04
- *3rd Batch* - Mar - May '04
- *4th Batch* - May - Aug '04
- *5th Batch* - Aug - Nov '04

Before every batch starts their placement, there is a joint training programme by the 3 women's NGO partners (WAO, AWAM, SIS). WAO conducts the component on the women's movement and advocacy, understanding of violence against women issues (Gender and Sex), understanding domestic violence and basic counselling skills.

The WAO-LAC head, Ms Parameswari, has recruited 4 new volunteer lawyers to assist in supervising the chambering students and to extend the pool of volunteer lawyers for clients whose cases are being heard in court.

9.0 OUTREACH PROGRAMME WITH UNHCR IN 2004

WAO began providing counselling, as an outreach program with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), on 17 Sept 2003. In 2002 we had provided shelter for 4 asylum seekers, and the UNCHR then requested for one social worker to be based at their premises once a week as there were female refugees and asylum seekers who are surviving sexual and domestic violence. Chong See Mun was assigned to be stationed at the UNCHR every Wednesday since 2003.

The commencement of the program stemmed from the prevalence of violence among asylums seekers. There is a great need for counselling services for asylum seekers and refugees. Most of the female asylum seekers have experienced some form of gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, rape and discrimination.

We continued our project with UNHCR from March to December in 2004 and a support group for rape survivors was added due to the demand from the individual counselling sessions.

Individual Counseling

Three social workers (Chong See Mun, Shoba Aiyar and Jessie Ang) took turns to conduct counselling sessions once a week (Thursday) at the premises of UNHCR from March to December 2004.

We have counselled 126 counselees in total, out of whom, five are male. Most of the counselees were from Myanmar, others from Aceh, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone and even Malaysia. The number of turn-ups was not consistent, sometimes none of the scheduled counselees turned up whereas on other days there was an overload of clients. We also counselled the refugees whom were brought by UNHCR staff to our premises out of the regular counselling sessions.

The counselling sessions help the women recognize their strong spirit, sense of survival, resilience and courage they possessed as they endured the hardships of living in what is effectively a limbo state in Malaysia.

Support Group

Two social workers (Chong See Mun and Saralah Devi) conducted support group sessions for rape survivors once a month (Thursdays, from 2pm to 4pm) at the premises of UNHCR from April to December 2004 (9 sessions). The group consisted of only women from Myanmar with the help of one or two interpreters for the sessions.

The number of participants attending the support group sessions was not consistent. Some sessions were attended by only three women and at other times we had a maximum of nine women. There were many dialects used during the sessions, thus, translation appeared to be a challenge. The participants expressed that they have benefited a lot from the support group. They could connect with others by sharing similar experiences. They were also empowered by the sharing sessions and understanding the value behind the scheduled activities.

Bi-monthly meeting with other Implementing Partners (IPs)

Three social workers (Shoba Aiyar and Chong See Mun) took turn to attend the bi-monthly meetings with other NGOs, i.e. partners who conducted programmes for UNCHR. We attended the scheduled meetings to strengthen the networking between the IPs with the objective of providing a more holistic service to our beneficiaries. The partners updated each other on their current projects related to asylum seekers and refugees.

□ Planning meetings at UNCHR

Shoba represented WAO for these meetings. By attending the scheduled meetings, the social workers were able to familiarize themselves with the UN system (ie budget planning and report writing)

Shelter for women and children

We provided shelter to 2 women from Aceh and Afghanistan and a mother and child from Myanmar. We also took in one Iraqi refugee boy into our Child Care Centre.

Challenges / Recommendations

Interpreters

We rely heavily on interpreters during our individual and group counselling sessions, thus, the quality of the interpretation plays a major role in the sessions. We hope UNHCR can provide on-going training (counseling skills, language classes, gender sensitization courses etc.) for the pool of volunteers in order to enhance their services.

We would like to brief every interpreter before we start our working relationship. We suggest that interpreters should sign a Confidentiality Form and Code of Ethics Form in future to protect the best interest of the counselees.

Confidentiality

We raised a concern that some women were agreeable for individual or group counselling with the hope that attending the sessions it could actually speed up the processing of their cases. It was important for us to evaluate our services and to strengthen ourselves in the belief that in the counselling sessions we need to address all of their fears in seeking asylum.

In some cases if the UNHCR officers have doubts on the authenticity of the case, they would ask us to justify the case. In fact, it's not the counsellor's role to make judgements on the cases; our role is mainly attending to their emotions and to help them to resolve unfinished business.

Quantitative Report

UNHCR office requested us to come up with more quantitative statistics in order to have a detailed picture of the result of the project. This quantitative report would help to justify our project and would also serve as a blueprint for next year's planning. It's a challenge for us, as we need to develop a more quantitative report instead of a qualitative one.

10.0 INTERNS AND SCHOLARS AT WAO

10.1 INTERNS

WAO hosted 12 interns in 2004 from Malaysia, America, Holland, Canada and Mongolia. They came to WAO to learn and gain in-depth experience regarding domestic violence and women's human rights. They were an integral part of our staff team who handled everything from phones calls, organising children's and women programmes, researching and writing, drafting the WAO newsletters and accompanying the women to courts, police stations and hospitals. The interns' contribution to WAO's work was invaluable and their presence added dynamism to the organization.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1) Chong Vee Kee, University of Birmingham, England | Dec '03 – Mar '04 |
| 2) Pravina Gopalan, local student | Feb – April '04 |
| 3) Baasanbat Sambuu, National Center Against Violence, Mongolia | Feb – May '04 |
| 4) Danielle Cazander, University of Utrecht, Holland | Feb – May '04 |

5) Chin Chou Lin, TAR College	Mar – April '04
6) Ivy Janette Goh, TAR College	Mar – April '04
7) Shamanth Iswary, University Tenaga Nasional	Mar – April '04
8) Amitha Kalaichandran, University of Toronto, Canada	May – June '04
9) Ayushna Ganguly, Sunway College	May – July '04
10) Lisa Bailey, University of New York	June – Aug '04
11) Martine Diepstraten, University of Utrecht, Holland	June – Sept '04
12) Daljeen Kaur, California State University	Aug – Oct '04

10.2 VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAMME

The Asia Foundation facilitated the placement of a Henry Luce scholar at WAO.

Jana Rumminger from the Northeastern University, Boston and a lawyer by profession began her work with WAO in September 2004. She will be with us till July 2005. Jana is assisting in the law reform work, and has taken on compiling the WAO policy guidelines and writing proposals to raise funds. She has effectively become a Programme Officer and is very involved in all of the work related to advocacy.

12.0 RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

12.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEDAW CONVENTION

WAO continues to take the lead in advocacy around the CEDAW Convention in terms of creating awareness and lobbying the state to fulfill its obligations under the Convention.

(i) Preparation of the NGO Shadow Report

WAO in collaboration with the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO) continued work on the NGO Shadow Report. In May 2004, NCWO received the final version of the first and second report of the government of Malaysia to the CEDAW Committee from the Ministry for Women, Family and Community Development. This enabled the various writers/teams working on the different chapters of the shadow report^{2[2]}, who were identified in 2003, to finalise their critique of the government report.

^{2[2]} The Shadow Report covers ten areas of concern based on the articles of the CEDAW Convention: (i) Law, policy and programmatic measures to implement the convention (art 1-3) affirmative action (art 4), citizenship (art 9), equality in the law (art 15), (ii) Customary practices and stereotyping (art 5), (iii) Trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution (art 6), (iv) Participation in political field and public policy formulation (art 7), participation in the international field (art 8), (v) Education (art 10), (vi) Employment,

To further facilitate the process, WAO hired a part time programme officer, Tashia Peterson, to assist with the completion of the chapters under WAO's responsibility and to work on the process of finalising the Shadow Report. The chapters/areas under WAO's responsibility are:

Writer: Ivy Josiah

Discrimination against women (Art 1)

Policy measures undertaken to eliminate discrimination (Art 2 & 3)

Temporary special measures (Art 4)

Citizenship (Art 9)

Marriage and family (Art 16)

Writer: Jaclyn Kee

Customary practices and stereotyping (Art 5)

Group 3 (writers: Lee Shook Fong, Mah Xian Zhen)

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution (Art 6)

Group 10 (writer: Watshlah G. Naidu)

Violence against women

ii) NGO Consultation to create greater awareness of the CEDAW Convention, the reporting process and to discuss and seek validation of issues raised in the draft shadow report, 21 & 22 August 2004

Part of the process of finalizing the NGO Shadow Report involved the above and WAO, with funding from the British Human Rights Project Fund, and NCWO, organised a National Conference on the CEDAW Convention. The two-day conference brought together 46 activists from various backgrounds – women's rights, human rights, HIV/AIDs, trade union, law, domestic workers and included representation of women's groups from East Malaysia.

social security and access to credit (art 11 & 13), (vii) Health (art 12), (viii) Rural women (art 14), (ix) Rights in Marriage (art 16) and (x) Violence against Women (general recommendation 19)

The programme for the first day of the National Conference included an overview by IWRAW Asia Pacific of the CEDAW Convention, the role of NGOs in the treaty review process, and sessions with Heisoo Shin, CEDAW Committee member on understanding the UN treaty body review mechanism, and the role and impact of the work of the CEDAW Committee. The second day involved break out working groups to review the different chapters of the draft NGO shadow report. A full report of the National Conference, including the feedback and recommendations for the different chapters as presented by the various working groups has been prepared. Work on reviewing the chapters of the draft Shadow Report based on these comments and feedback continued for the remaining part of the year.

As of Dec 2004, the Government of Malaysia had not yet been scheduled for a review by the CEDAW Committee.

(iii) Advocacy around the CEDAW Convention

The State's obligation under the CEDAW Convention has been highlighted at various forums and in relation to different issues through interviews, trainings, press releases, letters to the editors and articles in the media. These include

The memorandum and proposal on amendments to the rape laws submitted to the Parliament Select Committee in Oct '04

A session on CEDAW and Violence Against Women for the National Consultation on Violence Against Women organised by ERA Consumer in Kuala Lumpur (11th Oct '04)

A session on the effectiveness of laws for women and the state's obligation under CEDAW at Taylor's College Law Week in Subang Jaya (14th Oct '04)

Documentation of cases

WAO's social workers will continue to document the difficulties and experiences that women face with the Domestic Violence Act, in all its aspects, i.e. filing a police report, making an application for the Interim Protection Order (IPO), enforcement of the IPO etc.

12.2 ADVOCACY BY JAG3[3]

12.2.1 Joint Memorandum to the Prime Minister 6 May 2004

JAG met in January 2004 to review its past activities and decided that they should meet with the Prime Minister to advocate on all pending laws and policy reform. JAG met the Prime Minister's officials on an informal basis to register their concerns that quite a number of our proposed reforms especially laws pertaining to syariah law had not moved. The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development which presented the proposed law reform to various ministries including JAKIM, was in itself facing resistance being a new ministry and gender issues were still not accepted as critical to national development.

3[3] Joint Action Group Against Violence Against Women comprises AWAM, MTUC Women's Section, SIS, WAO, WCC Penang and WDC

At this informal meeting, the Prime Minister's Department proposed the formation of a high level task force on gender equality and non-discrimination, chaired by the Prime Minister which may then have the necessary authority to direct ministries and law makers to bring about change.

Members of JAG then put together a Joint JAG Memorandum charting the various law reforms prioritising 2 issues i.e. (i) Islamic Family Law and (ii) law reform related to rape. Reform on the Domestic Violence Act was underway, as the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development had already adopted a Report which was an output of the NGO-GO Joint Committee on the DVA set up in 2003 by the Ministry itself.

Prior to the meeting with the Prime Minister, JAG met with NCWO to enlist their support on the memorandum. The memorandum traced the history of advocacy and JAG's proposed reform on:

- Islamic Family Law
- Rape
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Harassment
- All other laws that discriminate against women

The meeting with the Prime Minister on 6th May 2004, was attended by JAG representatives, representatives from NCWO and the Minister of the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. Ivy Josiah and Meera Samanther represented WAO.

12.2.2 Proposed terms of reference for the proposed high level task force on gender equality

1. Studies implement and monitor the memorandum on law and policy reform submitted by JAG;
2. Review draft laws on the above reform issues to ensure gender equality and non discrimination;
3. Identify and draw up immediate and long term timeframes for the effective implementation of the reform process;
4. Receive progress reports from relevant agencies on the status of these reform issues and processes;
5. To submit the first progress report to the Prime Minister, six months after the first sitting and subsequent reports to be presented every three months;
6. Provide inputs into the 9th Malaysia Plan (2006-2010)

12.2.3 Summary on issues related to the DVA as presented in the memorandum

Domestic Violence Reform of Law, Policies and Protocols – Submitted by JAG since 1998, chaired by Women's Aid Organisation

2004 will mark the 10th year of the Domestic Violence Act, Malaysia 1994. The implementation of the Act in 1996 saw a 100% increase in police reports filed on domestic violence. Police reports have now levelled off to an average of 1,400 reports per year.

Challenges

1. Non-uniformity / bureaucracy of procedures by agencies; police, welfare, and courts;
2. Non-recognition of psychological violence: e.g. threats, persistent phone calls, stalking, threats received by friends of perpetrators;
3. IPOs are not served to perpetrators;
4. IPOs are becoming worthless papers when perpetrators strike again;
5. Lack of shelters for women who are 'homeless' as they have to leave their homes.

Submissions to the Government

1998: WAO's Monitoring the Domestic Violence Act Report sent to the Ministry Of National Unity and Social Development, Welfare Department and the Police for feedback.

1999: WCC Penang Memorandum (Revised) Review and Proposals for Amendments, endorsed by 21 organisations presented to HAWA and the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development.

Actions by women's groups

2000: JAG was invited to sit on the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women (NSCVAW) established by the Women Affairs Department under the Prime Minister's Department.

2000-2003: The Law And Policy sub-committee of NSCVAW held 23 meetings to discuss the WCC memorandum and WAO report on DVA.

2003: The Final Report: 'Laporan Jawatankuasa Kecil Pelaksanaan Dasar dan Undang-undang Di Bawah Jawatankuasa Pemandu Kebangsaan Mengenai Terhadap Wanita' submitted by the Ministry of Women and Family Development to Ministry of National Unity and Social Development.

2004: Welfare Department of Ministry of National Unity and Social Development began studying the Report.

Recommendation

The new Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development to follow up with its Welfare Department to take action on the Report

12.2.4 Outputs from the meeting with the Prime Minister

It was agreed that a high level task force will be formed which in effect will be a cabinet committee on gender equality chaired by the PM. This was announced in late 2004. The NCWO President is a member of this committee.

It was announced in the papers that Nik Noriaini of Sisters In Islam was appointed into the Syariah Law Technical Committee, however she had yet to receive the formal letter of appointment.

A follow up meeting was held with MWFCDD to discuss further the memorandum. At this meeting the minister was optimistic that the high level taskforce on gender equality was a right move and that will steer the law, policy and its reforms.

12.2.2 SELECT COMMITTEE ON LAWS RELATED TO RAPE

In 2004, Parliament announced that there will be a Select Committee on laws related to rape and the penal code. JAG saw this as an opportunity to present its proposed law reform on rape and was the first group to meet with the Select Committee on 16 August 2004.

JAG met with Select Committee again in Penang on 28 October 2004. The issues raised were on (i) a wider definition on rape and (ii) recognition of marital rape.

Jana assisted in putting together the documents and furthering the arguments to recognize marital rape for the 2nd meeting in Penang. Ivy Josiah represented WAO at both the meetings with the Select Committee.

12.2.5 Review by JAG

The Select Committee process was encouraging as it appeared that the Minister of Law chairing the Select Committee was open to JAG's proposals on the law reform on rape. However, JAG members agreed that there was still lot of resistance to recognizing marital rape and we endeavored to present both legal and religious arguments. The Select Committee is expected to report to Parliament in June 2005. However there was no progress on all other laws and issues presented in the memorandum.

12.3 ADVOCACY ON THE DVA

12.3.1 Formation of a committee by MWFCDD

As agreed by JAG, WAO took the lead on this and continued to lobby the MWFCDD to implement the proposals made in the Report by the NGO-GO Committee on the DVA. In a response by the MWFCDD in June 2004, there was assurance by a letter that there will be committee formed to study and implement the proposals and also to include both WAO representatives and 2 survivors of domestic violence in the committee. Unfortunately, there was no progress on this assurance.

12.3.2 Press conference on the Domestic Violence Act Malaysia, 1994, Reform on law policy and protocols, 16 June 2004

2004 marked 10 years of the DVA, which was passed by Parliament in June 1994. Aside from the JAG Joint Memorandum to the PM, which spelt out the issues around this act, WAO produced a brochure, “ Why Reform the DVA 1994?” and held a press conference on June 16 2004. At this press conference and briefing, which ran for half a day, social workers and one survivor reported on the challenges still facing women seeking protection. WAO emphasized the need for a standard Interim Protection Order (IPO) and standardising the protocols among the agencies. We stressed that the MWFC, which had taken on the Welfare Department will be now in a better position to implement the reforms related to policy (protocols) since the initial report, an output by the NGO – GO Committee on the DVA.

12.4 FORMATION OF ARTICLE 11 – RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION.

WAO initiated a watching brief in September 2003 for the case of SHAMALA A/P SATHIYASEELAN VS DR. JEYAGANESH A/L C. MOGARAJAH. Shamala became a WAO client through her lawyer Parameswari, who approached us to give her support. This watching brief was held by, Encik Haris for WAO, All Women’s Action Society (AWAM), Women’s Center for Change (WCC) and Sisters in Islam (SIS) to safeguard the following principles:

- i. equal guardianship of both parents in custody issues;
- ii. the right of the parents, in this case the mother’s interest, to be represented in custody issues in Syariah courts;
- iii. if a marriage is solemnized under civil law, then its dissolution and matters pertaining to it should be settled first in the civil courts to avoid conflict of jurisdictions;
- iv. the right of both parents to have a say in the issue of their children’s conversion.

In April 2004, the Kuala Lumpur High Court ruled that the Shamala’s application to nullify the conversion of her two children to Islam by their newly converted father, Dr. Jeyaganesh Mogarajah is a matter for the Syariah court and upheld the conversion. WAO and SIS on behalf of JAG, brought together several NGOs to discuss the slow deterioration of fundamental rights at a meeting at the SIS office on 27 April 2004.

After 3 meetings, it was decided that a coalition be formed to address all issues of inter-faith, although our starting point was the dilemma of wives whose husbands convert to Islam leaving them in a position where they are unable to claim their rights.

Article 11 is now a coalition of 17 NGOs in Malaysia with Sisters In Islam as the secretariat. It was formed in May 2004 to advocate and raise public awareness in upholding the fundamental rights of all Malaysians regardless of religion, race, descent, place of birth or gender. The members of the coalition are the Joint Action Group (JAG – Sisters In Islam, Women’s Aid Organisation, Women’s Center for Change Penang, All Women Action Society, Women’s Development Collective and Malaysian Trade Union Congress Women’s Section); Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism; Catholic Lawyer’s Society; Interfaith Spiritual Fellowship; Malaysian Bar Council; Pure Life Society; Vivekananda Youth Group; Catholic Bishop’s Conference; Council of Churches; Suara Rakyat Malaysia and National Human Rights Society.

Article 11 affirms its commitment to continue to embrace and uphold the following principles as guaranteed by the Federal Constitution and Human Right Conventions:

- (a) No citizen shall be discriminated on the basis of religion, race, descent, place of birth, or gender.
- (b) Parents (mother and father) are equal guardians and have equal say in the upbringing of the child.
- (c) The child shall be protected from any form of discrimination on the grounds of religion, and in all cases, the interest of the child should be paramount.
- (d) Religion and belief for anyone who professes either should be fully respected and guaranteed.
- (e) Every citizen has a responsibility to condemn discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief and to apply religion to belief in support of human dignity and peace.

12.4.1 Public Seminar on “Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and

The first activity by Article 11, organised by SIS and WAO, was a public seminar on “Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion” on 26th of June 2004 at the Bar Council Auditorium, Kuala Lumpur.

A total of 169 participants took part in the seminar representing diverse organisations, communities, religions, occupations and races. The event itself held immense significance for its novel approach in involving people who have experienced the stringencies of the law, Article 11 in this context, and the difficulties they have had to undergo for confronting the law on an issue such as freedom of religion.

The seminar was divided into three sessions.

The first session was a talk by human rights lawyer Malik Imtiaz titled “Social Contract Under Siege”. He addressed 3 questions; *Is Malaysia an Islamic State?; What is an Islamic State?; and When did Malaysia see it important to be labeled as an Islamic State.* The second part was a plenary session, chaired by Ivy Josiah (WAO). The plenary comprised three pairs of people, i.e. each pair had a speaker and a respondent. The first speaker, Ms Meera Samanther (WAO) gave a brief of Shamala’s case, an issue of Sec 51A, Law Reform Act (Marriage and Divorce) and the derogation of spouse / parental rights when one parent converts to Islam. The next speaker was Ms Kamariah Ali, who shared her experience on the restriction of her freedom to profess and practice faith. In 1992, her husband and 2 other men were charged for deviant practice, convicted for the same offence and then sentenced for renouncing Islam. A fresh charge was brought against them for trying to leave Islam. Her husband was sentenced to 3 years in jail, in which he served 24 months. He died in jail. The third speaker in the session was Mr. Harcharan Singh (Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism) who spoke on the restriction on other religions and the diminishing importance of other religions in Malaysia, such as the restriction on Sikhs from building places of worship with domes for fear of being mistaken for mosques.

The third session was called “The Way Forward” by Mr Raja Aziz Addruse who emphasized on *Article 18* of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which encompassed a wider ambit for religious freedom. The public seminar ended with the last session opened to public for questions to the speakers and panelists.

The seminar was successful in gaining public support and capturing the public interest in wanting to change the present socio-political scenario. The idea of a coalition of NGOs, the first of its kind, is also a hope that people from diverse backgrounds shall collect and unite together to voice the larger common cause.

Documentation of cases

On the part of WAO, we will continue to document cases where the conversion of husbands has affected the wives' rights as mothers in the area of divorce, maintenance and guardianship.

12.5 Pilot Study: Sisters In Islam Research Project On The Impact Of Polygamy On The Family Institution

WAO was involved in a pilot study which Sisters In Islam had conducted towards its nationwide research project to study the impact of polygamy on the family institution. Shoba Aiyar represented WAO at the meetings in formulating the questionnaires for the study and she had also conducted interviews with 3 Muslim women.

This pilot study targeted 40 respondents and subsequently, the nationwide research will commence in 2005.

13.0 WAO WEBSITE www.wao.org.my

Having been set up on 16 November 2000, WAO's website has been in operation for four years. It is updated on average, once a month, with previous articles put under the archive web page. Thus far, we have over 18,955 visitors. The website has been a useful resource for students, funders, journalists, volunteers, researchers and the general public who wanted to know more about our work and services.

13.1 Hosting Details

Web hosting company: Nerraw.net

Domain Hosting company: MYINC Sdn Bhd

13.2 Sections within the website

1. Home/Index (Mainpage)

- Dynamic page
- Summaries of articles updates, headers and small 100 x 100 pixel graphics.

2. About Us

- Static page

- Basic information of WAO (History, Mission & Vision, Objectives)

3. Research & Advocacy

- Dynamic page (as and when there are updates on this area)
- Findings on WAO's research & advocacy work in issues of the Domestic Violence Act, the abuse of Foreign Domestic Workers and CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women)
- In 2003, the Single Mother's Needs Assessment Survey findings was added to this section

4. Violence Against Women

- Static page
- Information on Violence Against Women: Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment, Rape, Child Sexual Abuse
- In both Malay and English

5. Services

- Static page
- Information on the services that WAO provides: Counselling, Shelter, Child Care Centre
- In 2003, WAO's new service, the Sexual Assault Helpline was added. The number of the Sexual Assault Helpline is also on the Mainpage in flash.

6. News

- Dynamic pages
- First news item on Index/Home page
- Links to other new articles, announcements, press statements etc.
- WAO's fortnightly column in Sunday Mail – Talking Points & Know Your Rights – has been consistently updated in this section.

7. Links

- Dynamic page

- Links to other organisations, websites and online communities on women's issues.

8. Support us

- Dynamic page (as and when the funding details changes)
- How WAO is funded, who are our funders, how users can help support WAO

9. Archive



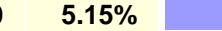
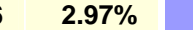
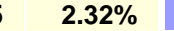
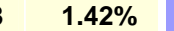
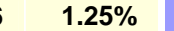
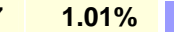
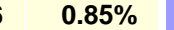
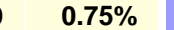
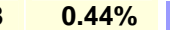
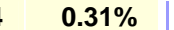
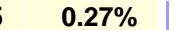
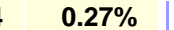
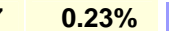
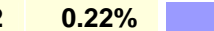
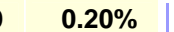
- Due to feedback about the difficulty in finding the archive page on the website to access previous news and information, a link to this section has been set on the Mainpage.

13.3 Number of Hits on Website

Counter: **Free Tracker** (www.extremetracking.com)

The total visitors to website in the year 2004: **18955** (see table 1 below for break-down of hits per month)

Most of the visitors to the website are from: **Malaysia, United States of America, Australia, Japan, Singapore, United Kingdom & Canada**, although 59.42% of the total visitors to the website are geographically unknown (see table 2 below for geographical breakdown of visitors to the website, up to the minimum of 10 visitors)

Domains / Countries				Unique Visitors
-	Unknown	21314	43.58%	
.my	Malaysia	17370	35.52%	
.com	United States	2520	5.15%	
.au	Australia	1456	2.97%	
.net	Network	1135	2.32%	
.uk	United Kingdom	698	1.42%	
.sg	Singapore	616	1.25%	
.jp	Japan	497	1.01%	
.edu	US Educational	416	0.85%	
.ca	Canada	369	0.75%	
.no	Norway	218	0.44%	
.nl	Netherlands	154	0.31%	
.hk	Hong Kong	135	0.27%	
.id	Indonesia	134	0.27%	
.kr	Korea, Republic of	117	0.23%	
.nz	New Zealand	112	0.22%	
.se	Sweden	99	0.20%	

.in	India	93	0.19%
.de	Germany	91	0.18%
.fr	France	75	0.15%
.tw	Taiwan, Province of China	70	0.14%
.th	Thailand	64	0.13%
.sa	Saudi Arabia	56	0.11%
.cn	China	53	0.10%
.ae	United Arab Emirates	51	0.10%
.dk	Denmark	50	0.10%
.org	Non-Profit Organizations	50	0.10%
.ph	Philippines	49	0.10%
.ch	Switzerland	49	0.10%









Continents	Unique Visitors		
Unknown	22565	46.14%	
Asia	19532	39.94%	
North America	3344	6.83%	
Europe	1721	3.51%	
Oceania	1575	3.22%	
Africa	104	0.21%	
South America	36	0.07%	
Central America	25	0.05%	

Table 2: Geographical breakdown of visitors to www.wao.org.my;

Articles posted on the website. Articles on WAO's website, notably from the Know Your Rights column, have also been reproduced in other websites (permission requested from: www.usj18.nwatch.net.my)

01-Dec --2004	Event - 16 Days Activism Against Gender Violence
01-Dec --2004	Talking Points - Who Cares About HIV/AIDS?
01-Dec --2004	Talking Points - Struggles in a Sexed World
01-Dec --2004	Talking Points - 'Race' to be Malaysian
01-Dec --2004	Event - "Walk the Talk" Campaign
01-Oct--2004	Talking Points - Doing 'Charity'
01-Sept--2004	Talking Points - Gender Budgeting
01-Sept--2004	Talking Points - The Forceful Institution of Marriage
23-Aug--2004	Event - Chicken Soup for the Soul Fundraising Campaign
23-Aug--2004	Talking Points - Super Women
23-Aug--2004	Event - Burger King "Change for the Better" Fundraising Drive
23-Aug--2004	Talking Points - Struggling with Religion

23-Aug--2004	Press Statement - Comment on Rape
23-Aug--2004	Talking Points - Rape Talk
23-Aug--2004	Opinion - Enjoying Rape?
23-Aug--2004	Talking Points - "Maid" by Force
23-Aug--2004	Talking Points - Outside Looking In
19-May-2004	Building Consensus
19-May-2004	Opinion - The Right To Remedy
19-May-2004	Talking Points - Elbow Space
30-Apr-2004	Opinion - Hysterical Over National Service
31-Mar-2004	Talking Points - Keeping Promises
31-Mar-2004	Talking Points - Casting the X(X) Vote
07-Mar-2004	Talking Points - Celebrating Women
23-Feb-2004	Event - International Women's Day 2004
23-Feb-2004	Press Statement - International Women's Day 2004
23-Feb-2004	Talking Points - Men At Work
23-Feb-2004	Talking Points - Selling Low Self-Esteem
31-Jan-2004	The Star - Heavy Penalty Not The Answer
31-Jan-2004	Talking Points - Do I Promote or Stop Rape?
31-Jan-2004	Talking Points – Are you are Stereotype

13.4 Other Websites

1. WAO is listed on the below websites as a useful contact:

<http://www.charitymalaysia.org/women.htm> - Charity Malaysia

<http://www.i-asianwomen.com.my/ngo/contact.htm> - I-Asianwomen.com

http://www.sigi.org/Resource/vaw_org.htm - Sisterhood Is Global Institute

<http://www.unifem-eseasia.org/VAWCamp/VAWdirectory.htm> - UNIFEM East and South

East Asia, Asia Pacific Campaign on Elimination of Violence Against Women

<http://www.seri.com.my/spi/orglist.htm> - The Sustainable Penang Initiative - Directory of Environmental & Social Groups in Penang and Malaysia

<http://www.founder.net.my/ngo.htm> - Foundernet

2. The below websites provide a link to WAO:

<http://center.com.my/org.html> - Malaysian Centre

<http://www.hakam.org/links.htm> - National Human Rights Society (HAKAM)

<http://www.malaysia.net/aliran/ngos.html> - ALIRAN, NGOs List

<http://www.mom4mom.com> - Mom4mom.com (Online Community website for single mothers)

<http://www.arrow.org.my/docs/frame3.html> - ARROW, Useful Links, Women & Development

http://www.3r.com.my/link_content.html - 3R

<http://www.newwomen.net/> - Newwomen (NCWO) Portal

<http://www.big.or.jp/~aochan/malaysiasite/syoukaisita.html> - Big.org (Japanese site)

<http://www.sabah.org.my/bm/ngo/index.html> - Sabah

<http://www.mycen.com.my/central3.html> - TV Smith's Malaysia Central

<http://www.aviva.org/asiagrop.htm> - Asian Groups

http://dmoz.org/Society/People/Women/Issues/Domestic_Violence/ - Dmoz Open Directory Project

<http://center.com.my/org.html> - Malaysia Centre

http://www.mesra.net/links/Government/Non_Government_Organisation_NGO/ - Mesra.net, Malaysian Directories & Information

<http://www.isiswomen.org/womenet/index.html> - Isis International, Manila

<http://www.wluml.org/english/linkseng.htm> - Women Living Under Muslim Laws

<http://www.teennet.com.my/gaya.html> - Teen net

14.0 PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

WAO received many invitations to conduct talks, set up information booths and organise special events to raise awareness on the issue of VAW. The staff, especially the social workers, assisted in conducting the talks and media interviews in all languages covering a range of issues.

Interns and volunteers also helped during the special events, by setting up stalls.

14.1 Talks and Training

WAO gave 41 talks in 2004, which included trainings throughout the year to schools, colleges, corporate sectors, colleges, the police and various organisations on issues of violence against women, CEDAW, as well as WAO's roles and services.

14.2 Print Media

Aside from responding to issues, WAO is often called upon to comment on an issue. Yet another way of presenting our position, was through our fortnightly column in the Sunday Mail.

SUNDAY MAIL "TALKING POINTS" COLUMN

WAO started a new fortnightly column in the Sunday Mail in April 2003. Initially positioned as a "Know Your Rights" piece, it is now more focused on current issues related to women's rights. It is also aimed at initiating a debate on changing perceptions. The following are the topics discussed in 2004:

25 Jan	Do I Promote or Stop Rape
8 Feb	Selling Low Self Esteem
22 Feb	Men at Work
7 Mar	Celebrating Women
21 Mar	Casting the X(X) Vote
4 April	Keeping Promises
18 April	Hysterical Over National Service **
April 2004	The Right to Remedy **
16 May	Elbow Space
2 May	Outside looking in
25 May	Enjoying Rape **
30 May	Rape Talk
13 June	'Maid' by Force
25 July	Struggling with Religion
22 Aug	Super Woman
5 Sept	The Forceful Institution of Marriage
19 Sept	Gender Budgeting
14 Oct	Struggles in a Sexed World
17 Oct	'Race' to be Malaysian

Note: All of the above articles on rights have been posted on the WAO website at www.wao.org.my

14.3 Television

WAO appeared on television 5 times throughout the year, as guest speakers on current women's issues or commenting on news related to women. WAO has appeared in NTV7, TV3, RTM 1 & ASTRO.

14.4 Radio

WAO initiated a radio info drama series on air through THR.fm in Bahasa Malaysia. This radio project was sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Family Development and THR.fm. The weekly programme on women's rights started with the reading of a case study followed by a discussion between the DJ and a WAO staff.

The following are the topics, which were aired in Bahasa Malaysia under the THR Gegar radio show:

- Sokongan daripada keluarga
- Penderaan oleh teman lelaki
- Penderaan emosional
- Isu Kesihatan & Keganasan Rumahtangga
- Laporan Polis
- Perintah Perlindungan Sementara
- "Marital Rape"
- Ketagihan Alkohol / Perjudian & Kemiskinan
- Penculikan oleh suami
- Kitaran Keganasan Rumahtangga
- Penderaan Kewangan
- Syak Wasangka & Perasaan Cemburu
- Pembaharuan Akta Keganasan Rumahtangga

14.5 SPECIAL EVENTS

14.5.1 International Women's Day 8th March 2004

For the third year running, WAO worked with 3R to organize International Women's Day 2004 with "*A Girl's Day Out – It Begins With Respect*" as theme for the year.

The celebrations for IWD started from 21 February 2004 until 8 March 2004. Among the activities held were:

- Futsal tournament - Feb. at the Sports Planet, Petaling Jaya

- Safety Workshops - Feb. 14 & 18 in Ipoh
- Mar. 7,8,20 & 21 in Kuala Lumpur

- Charity movie screening
at GSC Mid Valley - "The Missing" – Feb 29 and
- "20,30,40" – 8 Mar

At the two-day event of exhibitions, information booths, entertainment and fun activities on 13 & 14 March 2004 at Mid Valley Megamall, WAO organised a stage competition entitled

'Men at Work', where male celebrities were made to carry out what is commonly assumed to be women's chores like cooking, sewing buttons etc. .

The other NGOS involved in IWD 2004, were AWAM, Amnesty International, Malaysian AIDS Council and Sisters In Islam.

14.5.2 Mix.FM Massive Appeal Day 9 July 2004

WAO, Amnesty International and Mix FM held the Massive Appeal Day on 9 July 2004 at the KLCC Putra LRT station from 10am to 8pm.

Both WAO and Amnesty International set up information booths and helped Mix Fm in their fund raising efforts. Asha Gill sold little bananas dipped in strawberry or chocolate sauce called '*banashas*' for RM3.00. The event was broadcasted live via radio from the LRT station and was a success among the patrons of the station. We managed to collect RM1, 700.00. Mix FM aired community messages for a month prior to this event and continued airing these messages at least 3 times a week on each of their radio stations until end of the year.

14.5.3 La Senza and Marie Claire's "End Violence Against Women Campaign – Walk The Talk 2004"

In collaboration with Marie Claire and WAO, La Senza organized this event from August through November 2004, which involved a 2km walk around the road in front of 1 Utama Shopping Complex on 21 November 2004. To enter the walk, participants were asked to give a donation of RM30, which was part of the fund raising component of this campaign. The public education aspect was promoted in the Marie Claire, September, October and November issues. One special feature of this event was the '*I Pledge*' card, which encouraged the readers and participants to make a personal commitment to end violence. The STAR, the official newspaper for this event ran many articles on violence against women. The event drew over 300 people to participate in Walk The Talk and La Senza donated RM 80, 000 towards the WAO 3rd Centre.

14.5.4 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence – Learn To Speak Out and Take Action

Malaysian AIDS Council, Sisters In Islam and WAO worked together with The Body Shop and took the campaign out of Kuala Lumpur to shopping malls in Penang, Johor Bahru and Kota Bahru. The campaign was held from 25 November until 10 December 2004 with the launch on 22 November at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel by Anita Roddick, CEO of The Body Shop. 16 days Activism against Gender Violence kicked off on 25 November at the KLCC LRT station. At the 3 outstation venues SIS, MAC and WAO opened information booths, performed street theatre and engaged shoppers in discussions on women's rights.

16. 0 VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

In 2004, we conducted 10 volunteer orientations on an average of 1-2 per month. Most of the new volunteers were aware of WAO from the website, through word of mouth, media and through our public awareness campaigns.

From 20 existing volunteers, the number increased to 50. There were various activities conducted throughout the year by volunteers including classes in arts & crafts, aerobics, English lessons, computer lessons and dance classes. As for the CCC children, there were always volunteers' coaching them.

A painting project was organized involving the residents and volunteers who managed to paint the rooms in the Refuge. The paint was donated through a contact of one of the volunteers. To facilitate easier communication, support and coordination an e-group was established (wao_volunteers@yahoo.com). During the 16 Days Activism against Gender Violence, we had a large number of volunteers who came in full force to assist us.

17.0 VISITORS TO WAO

WAO received 6 visits from international organizations and associations from Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia, Indonesia, East Timor and Cambodia who were briefed on domestic violence and how WAO is organized as a Refuge.

18.0 FUNDRAISING

Fundraising was particularly successful as we managed to raise RM1,000,000. However, considering that our annual operational cost is estimated at RM 700,000, the amount raised is not that large. Notably, WAO managed to receive project funds from the Finnish Embassy (women's programmes), British Human Rights Project (CEDAW Shadow Report), Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (THR radio programme).

Government funds (10% of the total funds raised) were granted to WAO from the Welfare Department and the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. While there were straightforward fundraising activities, some of the public education programmes had a fundraising component, for example, the IWD celebrations with 3R, MIX Fm Massive Appeal Day and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

18.1 Some highlights of our fundraising efforts were:

Raz Oi

We began the year with Raz Oi, a restaurant in Bangsar that agreed to donate the RM2 from every order of poppadums to WAO to raise funds. This will be a continued effort for 2 years.

Burger King – April

In April 2004, Burger King launched a charity drive called "*Change for Better*" with WAO. Coin boxes were placed in all 18 Burger King outlets throughout the Klang Valley to collect spare change from customers. An average of RM2,000 – RM3,000 is collected monthly.

2001 Night - 27 May

On 27 May 2004, the 2001 Night charity dinner was held at Shangri-la hotel. The theme of the event, organised by fund-raiser Gilda Bejani was *The Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Algeria and Morocco*. Guests were treated to a live performance from an Algerian band. A Moroccan caftan fashion show was also held during the dinner. Chopard who is the world-renowned purveyor of

fine jewellery and watches was the main sponsor of event by donating RM45, 000.00 and gave watches to be auctioned off at the dinner. Proceeds from the night totalled to RM116, 628.90.

The 2001 Night organized by Gilda Bejani was well received by all and we would like to put on record our deepest acknowledgements to Gilda Bejani, Datin Alissa Fitri, and Vivienne Lee for their hard work in making the event a huge success.

Bulgari - May

We received RM15,000.00 from Bulgari during an event held to launch a Bulgari fashion item. Bulgari has been on of the regular contributors to WAO over the years and we take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support.

Chicken Soup for The Soul - 4 September

The event was held from early September till mid-October 2004. Besides the big scale promotion of the Chicken Soup books, a writing contest was also held from 1 September until 30 October 2004. WAO's role in this event was to assist in the launch of the contest at the press conference held on Saturday, 4 September 2004 at MPH, Mid Valley Megamall from 11am to 2pm. We had also placed our donation boxes at major book outlets such as MPH, Kinokuniya, Times The Bookshop and Popular Bookstores. The proceeds from the sales of books and the donation boxes totalled RM11, 122.71.

Malaysian Bengalee Association 11 September

WAO's Child Care Centre was chosen as part beneficiary for the Fundraising Dinner and Dance event held by the Malaysian Bengalee Association on 11 September 2004 at Mutiara Hotel. The association's main objectives was to raise funds for their community hall in Port Dickson. The Child Care Centre received RM 20,000 from this event.

Philip Mutual Berhad

Philip Mutual Berhad CHARIINVEST campaign came to end in 18 June 2004. A contribution of 0.1% of the total fund size of Philip Master First Ethical Fund which stood at RM 9, 682,006.45 were distributed to three charitable organizations. WAO was selected as one of the beneficiaries and we received a donation of RM3, 227.34 during a cheque presentation ceremony held at the Mandarin Hotel on 14 July 2004.

Club 21

Club 21 sells boutique items and clothes that range from T-shirts to jeans and bags under Armani, Max Mara, Max & Co and DKNY labels. Club 21 has chosen WAO as one of their beneficiaries for their bonus point programme. They intend to feature this programme for 2 years.

SINGER – Belian Amal Charity Drive 15 September – 15 November

SINGER Malaysia organized a mega trade-in promotion whereby nett proceeds from sales of trade-in-items would be contributed to the SINGER Belian Amal Charity Fund. The money raised was channelled to 5 selected charities, and WAO was one of the beneficiaries. The promotion

commenced on 15 September and ended on 15 November 2004. Donations from this charity drive amounted to RM20, 000.00

Charity Orchestra Performance “Wish Upon the Stars” 9 October

A Chinese charity concert by a group of individual volunteers who were keen to contribute their time, effort, and talents into putting together a performance, had chosen WAO as one of the 3 beneficiaries to receive the proceeds of the event. The performance was held on 9 October 2004 at the Securities Commission Auditorium, Bukit Kiara and WAO received RM20,000 from this event.

Charity Dinner "Nyonya Kebaya Splendour: A Night Of Elegance" 12 December

TV3, Yayasan Budi Penyayang and Nyonya Kebaya Splendour organized a charity dinner called "Nyonya Kebaya Splendour: A Night Of Elegance". WAO was one of the 3 beneficiary organisations that were chosen. The event was held on 12 December 2004 at Grand Ballroom, Hilton Kuala Lumpur, and WAO received RM100,000.00 from this event.